

Former student has wild week

Sarah Ruffatto wins World Series Game six tickets from Ellen DeGeneres, gets engaged before game

LEXI CORTES
Alestle Opinion Editor

It started with a call from Ellen DeGeneres and ended with tickets to one of the greatest games in baseball history and a marriage proposal.

SIUE alumna Sarah Ruffatto of St. Louis received that call, and of all the unbelievable things that have happened to her recently, she said talking to DeGeneres was the best part.

"I would've gotten proposed to eventually and we probably would have found a way to get downtown for the game, but who gets a call from Ellen?" Ruffatto said. "Who gets to go on 'The Ellen [DeGeneres] Show?' That never happens, so that was probably the most amazing thing out of everything."

Ruffatto tried to win tickets to Game 6 of the World Series through radio station 101 ESPN. There was a contest to see who could get the biggest celebrity to call in on the listener's behalf.

"I'm a huge Ellen fan and I know that she does amazing things for her fans so I wrote in and I was

like, 'I don't want you to buy me tickets or anything. I just want you to make a phone call and get me some free tickets,'" Ruffatto said.

She did not win the contest, but shortly after, she received a phone call from DeGeneres herself to give Ruffatto and her boyfriend, Joshua Wells, free tickets with the VIP treatment.

"It was just a total shock," Ruffatto said. "I had watched her for years, so I kind of recognized her voice a little bit, but I was like, 'there's no way she's calling me right now,' then she said 'This is Ellen,' and I just freaked out."

Ruffatto said she immediately started screaming in DeGeneres' ear and almost forgot about the Cardinals completely because she was so excited.

"It's something that I never saw coming," Ruffatto said. "I watch the show every day. I was more excited to talk to Ellen than I was to even get the tickets. It was huge."

Wells said he was definitely more excited about going to game six on Oct. 28 than his girlfriend was. Ruffatto said she has not been a baseball fan her whole life, unlike her

fiancé, but she is a Cardinals fan now so the experience was still amazing.

"Not even that it was a World Series game, but [the] Cardinals fans, especially when a game needs something, they're like family," Ruffatto said. "When we score a run, we'll hug the person next to us whether we know them or not. It was a great game to be at, especially in the circumstances that we were in to where we had to win it."

Wells said every inning was more action-packed than the next.

"It was one of those games where you can't really sit down for a minute because as soon as you do sit down, something else happens and you have to get up and start cheering again," Wells said.

In addition to the excitement of the game, the couple also got to go down on the field and meet the players.

"The one player we actually got to talk to was [Cardinals' closer] Jason Motte and he was so nice and so personable," Ruffatto said. "It was awesome."

Wells said as soon as he found out he would be going to the World



Sarah Ruffatto's boyfriend Josh Wells surprised her before Game 6 by proposing to her on the field.

| Photo courtesy of Sarah Ruffatto

RUFFATTO | pg. 3

Best seat in the house

JOHN LAYTON
Alestle Reporter

For many SIUE students, it was a special day when the St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series. Most of them will likely remember where they were that night for the rest of their lives.

Only one of them, however, will be able to say he was on the field in the midst of the celebration.

Sophomore engineering major Tanner Search of Columbia has been the Cardinals' bat boy for the past four seasons and could not help but join the celebration with the team.

"I probably wasn't supposed to [be out there]. I think I messed up a few pictures," Search said. "Actually, my boss gave me some grief for that, but we won the World Series so it'll be alright. It was for sure worth it."

Search said while sometimes he can feel like he is a part of the team, being out there on the field after the big win was a time when he did not feel a part of it.

"I kind of felt like the awkward one out there," Search said. "I tried to make the most of it and hug someone."

In any other year, Game 7 would have been the most memorable night for Search. However, Search said Game 6 was even better than Game 7.

Search had arguably the best seat in Busch Stadium to watch Freese make history.

"I went nuts when Freese hit that home run,"



Tanner Search, Cardinals' bat boy and SIUE sophomore, rushes to the celebration dogpile after the final out in game seven.

| Photo by Vernon Bryant/Dallas Morning News/MCT

Search said. "I was watching and thought, 'That might go out.' I kept watching and I just went crazy after that."

Former SIUE student Jim Kennedy of Columbia, who went to

high school with Search, said he was jealous of Search at certain points this season.

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Thinking outside the box

Homeless Program aims to better the community

MANDY NEWSOME
Alestle Reporter

As America has been tumbling into a dark recession, programs like SIUE's Homeless Program have been springing up and illuminating light on social issues.

Senior elementary education major Michelle Sutorius of St. Charles, Mo., and senior business administrator major Jarris Vermeire of Lincoln were inspired to start the Homeless Program in 2009 when they volunteered to feed the homeless in East St. Louis.

"After seeing all of [the homeless], we were motivated to speak to the volunteer service director [at SIUE] because we thought we could get others involved. She suggested we start a homeless program," Sutorius said. "We help the homeless by giving them food, blankets and clothes. We also try to raise awareness."

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ONLINE

Do not forget to check out the new mobile Alestle website at m.alestlelive.com

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Assistant Director of Civic Engagement Sarah Laux said one of the ways to raise awareness and help the East St. Louis community is a coat drive that is going on from now until Nov. 11. The drive is a

along with food made by the Homeless Program students on their "Into the Streets" outings. These outings are done monthly, and are given to the homeless population in East St. Louis. Laux said the Homeless

blankets. Students are also encouraged to bring food and clothing items to donate," Laux said. "We also have a speaker from Peter and Paul [Community Services] come out and talk about facts about homelessness. There are those drunken hobo stereotypes that we are trying to break."

Vermiere said this will be the first year "Box City" will be at SIUE.

"Last year we tried to [have the event on campus] but there were some problems. Some staff thought we were making fun of the homeless but it's really an attention grabber to raise awareness," Vermeire said. "We are trying to shatter the idea that people choose to be homeless."

Sutorius said a lot of people know about homelessness, but they do not understand it.

"Most of the time it is just unfortunate circumstances," Sutorius said.

The Homeless Program does more than feed and clothe the homeless.

"A lot of people picture

somebody homeless as a person with a cardboard sign who just wants money. Which some do, but there are a lot who want to have jobs," Sutorius said, "We actually help with résumés and try to help them get jobs at the career center [on campus]."

Sutorius said the Homeless Program has grown since its inception.

"It started with six of us and now there are 50. I think the struggling economy is making more people aware because more people are losing their jobs and homes," Sutorius said.

Sutorius said that SIUE's Homeless Program is still in the founding state and will be officially recognized hopefully in the spring.

"Right now, we aren't allowed to do fundraisers and donations on campus because we haven't been recognized [by SIUE]," Sutorius said.

Vermiere said taking care of the homeless is an important part of being in the community. "The homeless are a part of the community too," Vermiere said. "If I were in that position I'd want people to help me get back on my feet."

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“There are those drunken hobo stereotypes that we are trying to break...”

Sarah Laux
Assistant Director of Civic Engagement

collaboration of the Homeless Program, SIUE Housing and First Mid-America Bank.

Laux said the drop off bins are at Edwardsville's Sonic and the First Mid-American Bank in Troy, Edwardsville and Highland. There is also one in Prairie Hall, Cougar Village and by the Kimmel Center in the Morris University Center.

Laux said the coats will be handed out all month long,

Program, Residence Housing Association, National Residence Hall. Honorary and the Woodland Area Council are co-sponsoring "Box City" on Nov. 11 in the Stratton Quadrangle. Laux said "Box City" is meant to simulate homelessness for one night to raise awareness of social justice issues.

"Students will be sleeping in donated cardboard boxes and are asked to bring their own

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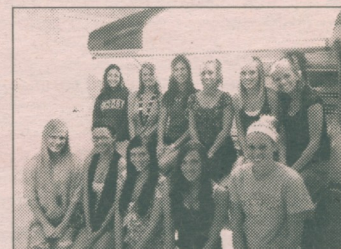
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RUFFATTO | from pg. 1



Sarah Ruffatto and her fiancé Josh Wells won tickets to game six of the World Series from Ellen DeGeneres. The Cardinals won in the 11th inning thanks to a walk-off homerun by David Freese.

| Photo courtesy of Sarah Ruffatto

Series with Ruffatto, he saw it as a chance to propose to her after four years together.

"I was planning for sometime in the near future, but then the opportunity presented itself and I didn't think there'd be a better way to do it, so I set [it] up with the producers and they made it happen," Wells said.

Ruffatto said she had no idea the proposal was coming.

"I knew he was going to propose sometime because we've been together for so long, but I never, ever thought in a million years that it would happen then," Ruffatto said. "It was a complete shock."

Ruffatto said she and her

fiancé flew out to Los Angeles to tape "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" Oct. 31 where she received a few more surprises.

"She surprised us with David Freese," Ruffatto said. "He came and sat by us on the couch. We didn't know he'd be on there, so that was a huge surprise for us and backstage he let my fiancé hold his MVP trophy and that was like the highlight of my fiancé's life."

Wells said he did not get a chance to take any pictures with the MVP trophy, but it is a moment he will never forget.

"Just the fact that I got to hold it for a few seconds was pretty awesome," Wells said.

Ruffatto said while she was having a difficult time calming herself down to meet DeGeneres, talking to Freese was not intimidating because "he was like one of your friends."

If receiving tickets to game six, meeting the players and getting engaged was not enough, the couple also received a cruise for their honeymoon courtesy of DeGeneres.

"Sarah's probably more excited than I am because she's never been on a cruise, but I'm obviously excited because going on a cruise in a situation like this is a once in a lifetime opportunity," Wells said. "Overall the experience has just been kind of unreal."

Ruffatto said appearing on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" and being interviewed by KSDK has put her in the spotlight, a place she is not comfortable staying.

"My phone never stops ringing," Ruffatto said. "People are coming out of the woodworks adding me on Facebook and sending me messages, people I haven't talked to in 10 years. My fiancé and I are kind of private people, so I just want a normal life back."

Wells said there will be only one small change in their house as a result of everything that has happened.

"I will say I'm a believer now," Wells said. "I'm sure we'll be watching a lot more Ellen than we used to."

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CAS puts on flash mob

JOHN LAYTON
Alestle Reporter

Students got a show to remember when they least expected it Wednesday in the Goshen Lounge.

Hundreds of students

are so many different groups of people here."

Junior theater education major Joshua Sutter of Troy, who was one of the dancers in the mob, said he hopes the performance will bring more attention to SIUE.



The flash mob put on by the College of Arts and Sciences occurred around noon Wednesday in the Goshen Lounge. Hundreds of students watched and some jumped in to participate.

| Photo by Rebehka Blake/Alestle

gathered about the lounge around noon, when the College of Arts and Sciences put on a flash mob dance performance.

Freshman special education major Brittany Thompson of Mokena said she heard there would be something happening in the MUC around 11:30 a.m.

"It was one of my favorite experiences here probably," Thompson said. "All the different groups of people, it really shows SIUE because there

"It's something that hopefully puts SIUE on the map even more," Sutter said. "Maybe a lot of people will say, 'Hey, this looks like a fun school, let's check it out.'"

Freshman nursing major Taylor Bitz of Taylorville said seeing everybody together and enjoying the performance was "really cool."

"I really wish I could have

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Tutoring program expands to Glen Carbon

ROSIE GITHINJI
Alestle Reporter

SIUE students are further reaching out to the local community through the work-study program America Reads with its newest location at the Glen Carbon Library.

Work-study is a federal program that provides funds to students and allows them to earn money through part-time employment to help with college costs.

Magi Henderson, Glen Carbon Library youth services director, said she spoke with someone from the Edwardsville School District who said they were using SIUE students to tutor their children.

Henderson said she has been reaching out to parents in the community whose children may need extra help with their school work.

"These are all parents who are coming in based on information we have provided in a marketing program," Henderson said. "We have not gone through the schools yet."

The program employs students like junior psychology major Tracie Burks of Chicago to tutor children in Edwardsville and surrounding areas. Burks has been involved with the America Reads tutoring program since she was a freshman at SIUE.

"I do it because I love helping

kids," Burks said. "Just to know I have the skills and the ability to show kids how to do something they don't understand."

Burks said math is probably the strongest subject she tutors

two hours when he does his tutoring sessions but is not able to work every day because of his class schedule.

Henderson said the tutors have to be able to talk to the

"I do it because I love helping kids..."

Tracie Burks
Junior psychology major

because it is easy for her to explain to the children.

She works with the children individually instead of in a group.

"[There are] not many kids... it's more one on one," Burks said. "It's easier to focus on their problems."

Burks said she has tutored children from kindergarten through eighth grade, but mostly younger students.

Junior speech communications major Adam Brown of Chicago said this is his first year tutoring for the America Reads program.

"Right now it's still kind of slow because it's [a] new [program]," Brown said. "I tutor a little bit of everything. It's pretty simple."

Brown said he works about

children and make them feel comfortable, while also being able to teach basic math and literacy skills.

"It's only been going on for three weeks so we are basically still setting up a curriculum for it," Henderson said. "We have had quite a few inquiries. Unfortunately because of college student schedules, they can't always be here when we need them to be here."

For more information on how to get involved in the America Reads program, contact the student employment office in Rendleman Hall, room 2212, or call 650-2563.

Rosie Githinji can be reached at rgithinji@alestlelive.com or 650-3527. Follow Rosie @RosieGithinji

MOB | from pg.3

been a part of it," Bitz said. "It's unifying."

Freshman kinesiology major Scott Jennings of Joliet said the performance brought people together that usually do not interact.

"There [were] a lot of people from different groups here. Everybody was together here and that was pretty cool," Jennings said. "I even saw an older lady out there that looked like she was in her 50s or 60s dancing too."

Sutter said CAS Dean Aldemaro Romero pitched the idea to a few dance professors who took the idea and ran with it.

"The majority of people [in the mob] are from the College of Arts and Sciences, but then we branched out and got people from other departments as well," Sutter said.

Junior art major Amber Biggs of Edwardsville, who was also part of the performance, said she thinks most people were recruited through their dance classes.

"Then we branched off to our friends and it was on YouTube so anyone could learn it," Biggs said.

Freshman genetic engineering major Christina Watson of Franklin, who danced with the mob, said she is used to performing but has not done anything like this.

"I've never been a part of a flash mob but I've been in dance recital since I was little so I'm used to performing, but never like that," Watson said.

Sophomore industrial engineering major Brad Hatton of Downers Grove said he had never witnessed something like this before and wanted to check it out.

"There was a good couple hundred people in it, it seemed like something fun," Hatton said. "Just all of them in sync at the same time, it was pretty neat."

Bitz said she hopes to see more events like this on campus in the future, with a few exceptions, because of what it did for the school.

"Maybe once or twice a year and keep it a random, sporadic thing. I think just how many people [were] here brought attention," Bitz said. "It's like, 'Oh there's hundreds of people so maybe I should stay here and see what's happening.'"

Jennings said if there are more flash mobs in the future, they should be kept more secretive than this one was.

"I guess they did have to get the word out," Jennings said. "If this was supposed to be a flash mob, it wasn't very flash-y."

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BAT BOY | from pg. 1

"I wouldn't have minded having the job he had, especially since he was able to be a part of the World Series celebration," Kennedy said.

Junior computer science major Josh Winchester of Granite City also went to high school with Search and said it is cool to know someone affiliated with the Cardinals. However, Winchester said he is not jealous of Search because he is not the jealous type.

"Also, knowing how many times per season they play at home it's got to take its toll," Winchester said. "I mean, he's a full-time student and the bat boy, which leaves only a small amount of time to do other things between the months of April and October."

Kennedy said he often feels bad for Search, though, because he is not able to celebrate with friends and fellow fans during the games.

"Sitting in the stands with fellow fans is something that can't be replicated," Kennedy said. "I wish he was able to experience that every now and then."

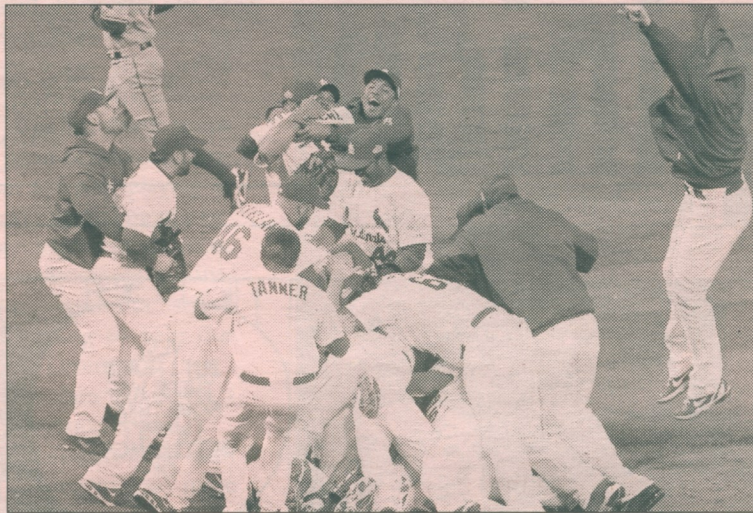
Search said it is better if he does not make a scene, but it was very difficult to contain himself during the World Series.

"If nobody notices that I did anything, then I'm doing my job right. I'm supposed to be there but not be noticed," Search said.

However, it appears people do notice him. Kennedy said sometimes when he has told someone he knows the Cardinals bat boy, they know his name.

"[They] responded with, 'You know Tanner? Oh my goodness, that's really awesome,'" Kennedy said.

Search said in the clubhouse the now former manager Tony La Russa was a really nice guy.



Tanner Search's fourth season as Cardinals' bat boy ended with the chance to celebrate with a World Series title.

| Photo by Vernon Bryant/Dallas Morning News/MCT

"The only time that he's ever not in a good mood is if we've been on a losing streak," Search said. "I don't even want to talk to him after a game that we lost because he's not in the best mood. He takes it really serious."

Search said he is glad La Russa was able to retire on a good note but is sad to see him go because he was a really cool guy.

"I was calling him Mr. La Russa when I first started. He said, 'I don't want to hear that crap. Call me Tony,'" Search said.

Throughout the Cardinals' historic run this season, Search observed the team from a unique point of view and what he saw may be surprising to some.

"People kept asking me, 'How are they? Are they really serious?' They weren't really," Search said.

In fact, Search said all year the team was very loose and stayed that way through its run.

"Especially this year, everybody was really in sync with each other and they were laughing all the time.

They're a bunch of goofballs really," Search said. "It's just 25 guys who are all friends just hanging out."

Search said all the joking around stops once game time nears.

"Then everybody is very serious. Before that, they try to stay relaxed, though, because I think if they were that serious all the time, the season would just kill them," Search said.

Search said the players will even joke around with him occasionally.

"Kyle Lohse was yelling at me one day. He was like, 'Tanner, I don't want to sign anything right now, I'm playing 'Tiny Wings' on his iPhone,'" Search said. "But he was just messing with me."

Search said all the players are pretty friendly with him and he talks with many of them in the clubhouse.

"Ryan Theriot likes to talk to me and Freese, Jon Jay, Skip Schumaker," Search said. "Albert's even really nice to me. They're all really nice guys."

Search said he does not go out

of his way to talk to the players.

"I try not to start conversations. If they want to talk to me, I'll talk to them. I just try not to get in their way and bother because they're there to play," Search said. "I don't want to get them out of a mindset or anything."

Outside of the players, Search said he has gotten to know some of the umpires pretty well.

"A lot of them really aren't too bad. A few of them think they're hot stuff but that's very few," Search said. "Gary Cederstrom is a really nice guy. Marty Foster always talks to me. He's really nice."

For Search, that is just part of the job, which he manages to make sound almost boring when he describes his every day duties.

Search arrives at Busch Stadium around 3 p.m. on days when the game starts at 7 p.m. He said his first order of business is usually to fill the water and Gatorade coolers and then stock the gum and sunflower seed trays. Other than that, Search said he is there to help players out if they need it.

Once batting practice starts, Search takes the coolers to the dugout. After that, he has to watch the bench while the players take their swings.

"Basically, I just sit and watch batting practice for two hours," Search said. "I do have to watch the bench to make sure gloves and bats don't walk off with anybody who's down there."

After batting practice, Search said he has to run coolers and trays out to the dugout.

"Then the game starts and I have to get foul balls off the net and pick up any bats from a walk or hit or an out," Search said. "I also have to run out baseballs to the umpires

if they call for any."

According to Search, some players make his job during the game a little easier than others.

"Yadi always makes it easier for me. He has an elbow pad and he'll take that off and leave it with his bat. Allen Craig, on the other hand, every time he gets a walk he'll take it down to first base," Search said. "I'm like, you can leave it here. I'll pick it up. But I just run down and get it from him at first. It's not a big deal."

After the game, Search said he cleans the bench, puts clean laundry in the players' lockers and does anything else the clubhouse manager or players want him to do. Sometimes, the things players ask him to do for them involve doing a little work away from the stadium.

"Sunday night actually, I drove Ryan Theriot to an airport and took his car back to the stadium. I was with his family and his kids and we were just talking," Search said.

Search does not mind that he makes far less than the players he helps.

"I don't know what all bat boys make but I make minimum wage," Search said. "I work nine hours a day. I'll make \$60 or \$70 a game."

Search said being the bat boy for the St. Louis Cardinals is the best job he can imagine.

"You can't get this in any other sport. I'm the only guy out there getting the bats and the balls," Search said. "You can't do that in football or hockey or basketball. It's just me doing what I have to do out there."

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MODULES

Student Leadership
Development Program &
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Modules

11/8/11

Module 21, 2 p.m.

Leadership Challenges for Men & Women

Dr. Lynn Bartels, Associate Professor

Dr. Cindy Nordstrom, Professor

SIUE, Department of Psychology

International Room, MUC

Module 22, 6 p.m.

Professional Etiquette

Robin Kilpatrick, Counselor

SIUE Career Development Center

International Room, MUC

SLDP Reminders....

Volunteer Projects

Nov. 4 - The Gardens at SIUE

Nov. 5 - Red Cross Training

Nov. 5 - Holy Angels Shelter

Nov. 5 - Faith in Action

Yard Clean-Up

Nov. 12 - Willoughby Farms

Nov. 12 - St. Vincent de Paul

Nov. 17 - The Gardens at SIUE

Nov. 18 - The Gardens at SIUE

Nov. 19 - Angel Food

Nov. 19 - Boy Scout Food Drive

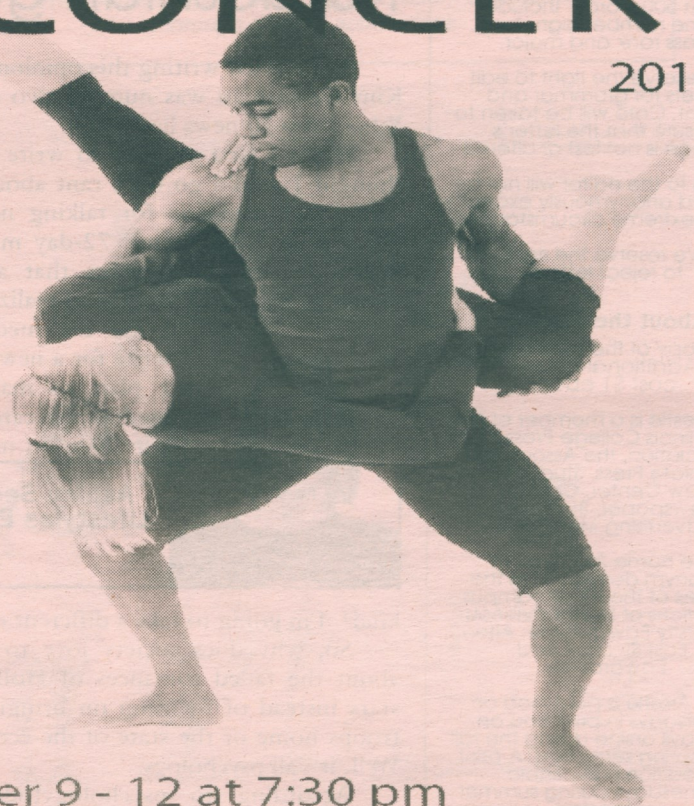
Nov. 19 - The Gardens at SIUE

For more information and the calendar, contact
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Thursday, November 3, 2011

the Alestle

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Staff editorial: Journalists focus on newsworthiness

Determining what is newsworthy and timely is a key part of what we do at the Alestle. Like all news organizations, it is at our discretion to determine how and why we cover what we do.

Thought, planning and discussion go into every article written and every photograph taken, not only on the collegiate level here at SIUE, but on a national level as well. When Saddam Hussein was executed, CNN, as well as many other news organizations, debated whether or not to show the images. An article on the Poynter Institute's website quoted CNN's Anderson Cooper as saying, "We are not going to just get these images and slap them on TV."

However, there are flaws in the system that determines newsworthiness. For example, the Poynter Institute ran an article Oct. 13 discussing the coverage of the Occupy movements and the nature of

journalists to withdraw from protests at times. The most coverage for Occupy Wall Street did not occur until protesters had altercations with police officers on the Brooklyn Bridge. This forces us, as journalists, to examine whether the coverage should have increased at this point or be covered the same amount for the duration of the protests.

When looking at the characteristics of newsworthiness (timeliness, proximity, novelty, prominence, impact), it's obvious the addition of conflict will appeal to more readers. However, if the underlying message has more prominence before the conflict, that should get just as much coverage.

At the Alestle, we also struggle with such issues, though not to the same degree, as we cover a much smaller area. In determining what stories to cover, we do our best to look at the big picture, so to speak. What will

interest readers? How do the stories affect the readers?

And perhaps the biggest question to answer in all of this is: Why will the reader care? If the majority of readers do not care about what we are writing, or have any reaction to it, whether that be positive or negative, we are not doing our job correctly.

Just like every other news organization, though we are still learning, we take our job very seriously and strive for perfection in each story written, each photograph taken and each page we design. It is our duty to inform readers of what is happening in our campus community and we do so with passion, attention to detail and as keen of an eye as possible for newsworthy happenings on our campus.

The Alestle can be reached at staff@alestlelive.com or 650-3525. Follow the Alestle @TheAlestle.

Kardashian gossip becomes impossible to escape

As I started writing this opinion piece, Kim Kardashian was number two on the Yahoo! top 10 news list.

When I first decided to write this, I thought I would go on a rant about how stupid the media is for talking nonstop about Kim Kardashian's 72-day marriage instead of covering events that actually matter to the world. But then I realized that

I am the media. I write for a newspaper, I plan to make the media my career, so why hate on my own



Ashley Seering
Lifestyles Editor

kind? I'm going to take a different route.

So, why does society love to gossip about the failed romances of Hollywood stars instead of focusing on bringing our troops home or the state of the economy? Well, it's all psychology.

According to psychologytoday.com, gossip, no matter how mundane, comes

from an inner need each of us has to shout our opinions to the world. I find it rather entertaining when a big celebrity break up like Kim K's happens, people who typically would never care about such goings-on suddenly have well-developed opinions on the matter. It is probably because gossip also comes from our need to fit in, according to Psychology Today.

No matter how hard we try to shade ourselves from celebrity gossip, it will always work its way into our lives. Countless times, celeb news has been mentioned in my classes, at work or among friends. Therefore, we respond to these actions with our own responses, furthering the gossip even more.

And the media knows how all of it works. As a supporter of almost all things media related, I believe legitimate media sources are simply trying to cater to their audiences' interests. We hear about celebrity gossip nonstop because there are enough people out there who want to hear it and fully support the likes of "E! News" and "Access Hollywood" and to get their daily fix, these people switch over to one of these

celeb news programs rather than the 5 p.m. news.

Just like Anheuser-Busch makes beer because people like to drink, E! and other celebrity-based programs dish out gossip because their audience likes celebrities. Is it essential for living? Is it necessarily good for you? No, but chances are nothing too horrible is going to come from a drink or a gossip magazine. We have these things around to keep us entertained and to spice up our own reality.

So the next time you're bashing celebrity news, remember that you're essentially bashing the company that sponsors your World Series Champions.

When I finished writing, Kim Kardashian still sat in the number two spot on Yahoo!'s news list.

Looks like Kim and beer aren't going anywhere anytime soon. So sit back, pop open a cold one, and turn on some "E! News."

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Convicted

Four years after arrest, former SIUE student charged with terrorism threat and illegal gun possession

Oduwole guilty as charged in 2007 case

Former SIUE student Olutosin Oduwole was found guilty last week of communicating a terroristic threat and illegal gun possession. Some argue he was not trying to communicate anything other than the beginning concepts of a rap song.

However, I think the jury saw through this farce and decided correctly.



Jill Cook
Graduate Asst.
Writing Coach

I understand Oduwole could very well be an aspiring rap artist. And I understand that many other rap songs contain lyrics that can be deemed as violent. These are concepts I will not argue against.

What bothers me is that Oduwole basically screamed on a college campus, "Give me money or I'll shoot you!" Yeah, he didn't really do that, but he left a note in his abandoned car that said almost the same thing.

By leaving the note/lyrics sitting in his car and abandoning it on campus, he put absolutely no consideration into his art. Ask an artist if he or she will leave a sketchpad

or canvas in an abandoned car and most would probably say "no way."

If the artwork contained provocative material, they would probably be even more mindful of who sees it and who definitely does not.

For example, Snoop Dogg's song "20 Dollars 2 My Name" has the following lyrics: "Nothing left to do, but buy some shells for my glock/Why? So I can rob every known dope spot/I got \$19 and 50 cents up in my pocket with what?/With this automatic rocket/Gotta have it to pop it, unlock it, and take me up a hostage."

In the world of music, keeping your work well protected so other people don't copy or steal it is even more important.

There are many rather famous cases involving copyright infringement in the music industry — think Vanilla Ice's rip-off of Queen's "Under Pressure" or Ray Parker Jr.'s rip-off of Huey Lewis' "I Want a New Drug."

And when it comes to writing, every college student is more than aware of the cardinal rule, do not plagiarize. It seems rather unlikely that any aspiring musician would leave his or her lyrics out for anyone to steal or copy.

Oduwole took none of these

considerations into his supposed art and instead started stocking up on a variety of guns, one of which was even found on campus.

Again, most aspiring artists are not going to create a piece that portrays violence and then engage in behavior that could lead to violence.

Far too often, young adults write poetry or draw pictures that show suicide or abuse and these signs go unchecked by teachers, friends and family.

Then, when that person does commit suicide or act out violently, everyone is somehow astonished.

The police acted accordingly when they found the note. Instead of waiting around to see if the writer was just kidding, writing the next great rap song or seriously intending to commit "a murderous rampage," the police investigated and filed charges according to their findings.

This was nothing more than the judicial process doing its job correctly. The jury found him to be what he was: guilty.

Jill Cook can be reached at jcook@alestlelive.com or 650-3525. Follow Jill @jill_cook.

Evidence seems inconclusive to convict

In light of the convictions for the Oduwole trial, I was torn. I understood his possession of weapons made him guilty, but I have a hard time thinking he should be found guilty of charges on terrorism.

I was at first weary of the fact that the defense's main support was that the note and a Windows Movie Maker file found in Oduwole's possession were rap lyrics. It was cheesy and seemed like a weak defense. However, the Windows



Lindsey Oyler
Copy Editor

Movie Maker file found the Thursday before the trial began was a persuasive factor.

There were certain picture and sound files in the Movie Maker document. One of them was labeled "UCLA," another "Washington State."

The sounds contained what seemed like PowerPoint sound effects, labeled gun reloading and similar names. I saw those file

names and thought, if he's really threatening SIUE, why wouldn't he just say SIUE?

The biggest problem is that the file had been deleted before, which made it difficult to access the files that had been inserted when the document was made.

It makes a bigger impact to the reader if someone were to use a better-known school. It's just another reason he should not have been convicted of threatening SIUE specifically.

The file contained very similar text to the note found, claiming that if \$50,000 was not deposited in a Paypal account within one week, a target university would experience a disaster similar to that of Virginia Tech. This occurred in summer of 2007. The trial did not begin until less than one month ago.

Also, one testimony from his fraternity brother Thomas Phillips claimed the two watched a "Law and Order" episode about a school threat. Oduwole reportedly told Phillips it would be a good idea for a song, which Phillips rejected.

However, in less than a few weeks, the note was discovered when Oduwole's car ran out of gas on campus and was searched.

Reports from a gun dealer in Kirkwood also triggered police interest when Oduwole didn't deliver an M-16 the man had ordered online.

Innocent until proven guilty was my thought throughout the entire trial. I don't know if my personality is just more gullible than the jurors', but I could see the prosecution shaking their heads in disbelief for every word the defense said.

However, the only solid evidence I found in the case were the ammunition and weapons. There was ammunition found both in the car and in his room.

One loaded handgun was found in the apartment while several pictures of himself holding weapons were found on his computer (two desktops and one laptop were used in evidence).

The threat of terrorism was never made public and the prosecutors went off about the fact that they didn't want to risk anything happening. If that's what we convict people for, the jails had better start adding more cells.

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Oduwole: Arrest to Verdict

July 12, 2007

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives received report that Oduwole purchased three semi-automatic handguns online and a fourth semi-automatic weapon, an uzi-type firearm.

July 20, 2007

Oduwole arrested on felony charges of theft over \$300 and computer fraud. Oduwole was later charged with misdemeanor unauthorized possession of a weapon on state property and alleged attempt to make a terrorist threat, a felony charge.

July 25, 2007

Oduwole was held on \$1.1 million bond.

Aug. 8, 2007

Oduwole was released from Madison County Jail and ordered to remain at least 1,500 ft. away from SIUE campus.

Sept. 10, 2007

Oduwole's attorneys seek to have note with alleged threat removed from evidence.

Sept. 26, 2007

Hearing to determine use of note.

Feb. 7, 2008

First court date since not guilty plea in Aug.

Oct. 28, 2008

Oduwole ordered into custody by Associate Judge Richard Tognarelli.

Nov. 2008

MadCo authorities failed to revoke \$1 mill. bond after Oduwole alleged purchased .45 caliber semi-automatic weapon.

Nov. 10, 2008

\$1 mill. bond revoked. Oduwole remains in Madison County custody

Dec. 2009

State Atty. William R. Mudge claims defense atty. Jeffrey Urgandan presented an altered form of the note found in Oduwole's car. Defense claims note was rap lyrics and a form of freedom of speech.

Oct. 18, 2011

Trial begins.

Oct. 25, 2011

Univ. of Calif. - Irvine professor Charis Kubrin consulted as "rap expert."

Oduwole convicted of communicating a terroristic threat and illegal gun possession.

Facts of the case

The note found in Oduwole's car read "Send \$2 to PayPal account. If this account doesn't reach \$50,000 in the next 7 days then a murderous rampage similar to the VT shooting will occur at another highly populated university. THIS IS NOT A JOKE!"

Oduwole's father posted a \$100,000 bail in August 2007 before he could be released from Madison County Jail after a stay of two weeks.

He has pleaded not guilty since the questioning began in 2007.



A more athletic, cohesive team of Cougars

Despite changes, questions, SIUE optimistic with season looming

ALLAN LEWIS
Alestle Sports Editor

SIUE men's basketball Head Coach Lennox Forrester remains cautiously optimistic in his fifth year despite losing his team's leading scorer, Cornelius Chatt, for the year due to an academic issue and his biggest weapon in the paint, Nikola Bundalo, to graduation.

2011-2012 Men's Basketball Preview

He has to be. After all, SIUE was 8-21 last season, its final year as a Division I Independent program, and will be making the full-time switch to the Ohio Valley Conference this season.

"Last year, we won eight games. Right now, we haven't won a game yet," Forrester said. "You can't get overly confident but I like the pieces we have put together and that's probably what excites me the most."

The Cougars were picked to finish last in the OVC by league coaches and sports information directors. It does not bother Forrester. He said his team has to earn it.

"Those things are expected," Forrester said. "If we need to be picked last to be motivated, we aren't as true of a competitor as we think we are. Our guys are motivated no matter where we are picked and are working hard on the basketball floor to improve on a daily basis."

Yelovich returns

The Cougars have pieced together a team they feel is more athletic and cohesive than in years past. While Chatt, who averaged 15.8 points per game last season, is not back, SIUE returns junior Mark Yelovich. The two-time NCAA Preseason All-Independent pick missed all of last season with a broken metatarsal shaft in his right foot he suffered during the team's season-opening 70-58 loss to IPFW at the Vadalabene Center, but not before scoring 15 points.

So, how is the foot?

"It's not bad actually," Yelovich said. "I did tweak it a little bit during pre-season but it has been getting better and I should be released by my doctor for next Thursday's game [against MacMurray]."

The injury has been a point of frustration for the junior, who was granted a medical redshirt by the NCAA and is eligible to play next season as well, SIUE's first as a fully-certified Division I program.

"Out of all the frustration of



Left: Redshirt junior Mark Yelovich returns after missing 28 of SIUE's 29 games last year. Yelovich averaged 16 points per game as a sophomore. Right: Sophomore guard Michael Messer was third on the team in scoring last year. | Alestle File Photos



what happened, that's the only good news that can come from this," Yelovich said. "I am glad it happened when it did in order to save my year and hopefully I get healthy and stay healthy so next year when we get to play with the conference, we can compete to win and do a full Division I tournament."

The team is not rushing its star, but Forrester knows how dynamic he can be when healthy. Yelovich averaged 16 points per game his sophomore year.

"Mark still hasn't practiced yet with the team, but we are taking the right steps to get him for the year, not just for one or two games," Forrester said. "We are working hard in practice and I'm liking the way they are coming along and hopefully it is a very successful year and we are making progress."

Battling down low

SIUE's focus for now is on the present with the team's first exhibition game scheduled for Thursday against Division III Blackburn College. Even with the season looming, Forrester said there are still questions.

"Our defense is getting better but is not close to where it needs to be," Forrester said. "Guys need to buy in and play

hard to where we are not giving up offensive boards and we can't keep turning the ball over and expect to win. Those are the areas we have to get better in and guys are doing a good job and continue to get hungrier and hungrier."

Offense was not the team's problem last season. SIUE averaged 66 points per game, but their opponents averaged 77. The Cougars allowed an average of 38 rebounds per game compared to just 30 (319th in the nation) in their favor and turned the ball over 17 times per contest.

Without the 6-foot-10 Bundalo, who led the team with six rebounds per game in 2010-11, winning the battle of the boards would seem to be one that is uphill. Forrester hopes the team's athleticism, beginning with Derian Shaffer, a 6-foot-7 transfer from Kilgore College (Texas) can make up for it. Shaffer weighed Division I offers from Northern Illinois, Stephen F. Austin and Central Michigan before settling at SIUE.

Shaffer said he is ready to assume the role.

"I think I bring energy and leadership," Shaffer said. "I just try to keep everyone playing hard even when we aren't doing so good in practice."

After Shaffer, the Cougars

have 6-foot-9 junior Zeke Schneider, who has averaged 0.5 points and 0.9 rebounds in limited action and 6-foot-6 Jerome Jones, a transfer from Indian Hills Community College who started his collegiate career at Missouri State. Jones may be small for a center and will see more time at forward, but he had a breakout year at Indian Hills after playing sparsely as a freshman for Cuonzo Martin at Missouri State.

"As far as our depth at the five, we don't have a lot," Forrester said. "We need to stay out of foul trouble and defend well and will get a great benefit if we do those things."

Both senior guard Kevin Stineman and Yelovich said Shaffer is not a prototypical center, but his skill set can play in the Cougars' favor.

"Derian is a five, but plays more like a four," Stineman said. "He is more mobile than Nikola and can move around, block shots and move end to end and it works to our advantage on fast breaks."

Guard play

Without Chatt, a combo guard with the ability to play the point, the Cougars have one less option. Still, guard play is the team's strength. Senior Corey

Wickware, who transferred to SIUE along with Chatt from Wabash Valley Community College, returns after an impressive season where he averaged 11.6 points per game and was second on the team with 2.8 assists. Wickware scored in double figures 19 times and had 26 in a game against South Dakota. Sophomore Michael Messer was third on the team in scoring, averaging 8.7 points per game. He scored 24 in SIUE's first home win against a Division I opponent Dec. 11 against Kennesaw State.

"Losing Chatt will hurt us. He was our leading scorer last year, but no one has seen the new guys play," Stineman said. "[Michael] Messer is better than he was last year, [Jerome] Jones is going to play really well for us and put up points and we have Mark coming back. You lose some, but you gain some."

Some of the point guard duties may fall on Stineman, who is not a flashy scorer, but in his fourth year knows the system and led the team in assists last season. Stineman has been consistent as he averaged 5.5 assists per game and cracked the top 100 on SIUE's all-time scoring list in

SIUE wants actions to speak louder than words in 11-12

JOHN LAYTON
Alestle Reporter

If womens basketball Head Coach Amanda Levens has her way, the team will not be talking much this coming season.

2011-2012 Women's Basketball Preview

"Honestly, I told our team that what I would like is for our actions to speak so loudly that we never have to say a word," Levens



Senior guard Madison Meade enters the year with 387 points in a Cougar uniform. | Alestle File Photo

said.

Other than that, Levens said the team does not have any set goals for the season.

"I know what they picked us to be in the Ohio Valley Conference [eighth] and that doesn't matter. We have to go out and win the games," Levens said. "We're going to go out and try to win every game and hopefully at the end of the season we look back and we've done a good job of getting close to

that."

Senior Madison Meade said the team wants to show the OVC what it has.

"We definitely want to make an impact the first year and we definitely will," Meade said. "We're going to make a name for ourselves this year."

Junior Raven Berry said facing the first season of conference play in the OVC is an exciting challenge.

"To me, it is our chance to prove to the OVC that SIUE belongs in the conference and will give each team competition," Berry said.

Berry said she would like to see the team have a winning season this year and hopefully play in the postseason.

"That would mean so much to our program and it would prove to the conference that the Cougars belong here," Berry said. "Every night, I want all of our opponents to have to worry about my team."

Levens said this is the first year in her tenure the team has had upper classmen that played on the team as under classmen.

"Having a core group of leaders has been awesome for us coaches because a lot of times they'll chime in and say something before we can even get to correcting it," Levens said.

Meade said the older players are helping the newer players to learn the system and also helping



Junior forward Raven Berry has been a force inside for SIUE the past two seasons. | Alestle File Photo

the team bond.

"The team chemistry and what we need to do off the court to get everyone together and just bond is very key," Meade said. "We all hang out together off the court. It kind of carries onto the court."

One of the things the team has to do better this year, according to Levens, is play with consistency.

"That has been something that we haven't been early in the season the last two years. The ratio of returners vs. new players, this is the

first year it's been like that," Levens said. "I can tell you, from a coaching standpoint, that has been nice. Hopefully, it will translate to playing better earlier in the season."

As part of achieving that consistency, Levens said the team really worked on their conditioning and toughness in the offseason.

"The toughness and success of our program is determined by how

WOMEN'S PREVIEW | pg. 11

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MEN'S PREVIEW | from pg. 8

2010.

Recruit Charles Joy (O'Fallon) averaged 12 points per game for a 30-5 high school team last season while Kris Davis (Detroit) averaged 19 points and six rebounds for Cass Tech.

"I think [fans] should watch out for our whole team," Forrester said. "I don't care who scores the most points. It's about are we playing as a team. When our fans come out to watch us play, I want us to give them our best performance."

The Cougars' depth at guard is something keeping Forrester from naming a starting five before the season begins.

"I'm not quite set as far as our starting five," Forrester said. "Kevin is doing good and our young guys are competing hard on a daily basis."

SIUE's recent recruiting class also brought two Division I transfers, who will not be eligible this season but could contribute next year. Maurice Wiltz came to SIUE from Colorado State after a successful 21 point-per-game high school career, which garnered him national attention as a McDonalds All-America nominee. Tim Johnson signed on at SIUE after starting his college ca-

reer at George Washington.

The schedule

After beginning the year with two home exhibition games, the Cougars face a tough test traveling up I-55 to battle an up-and-coming Illinois team in Champaign to open the Cancun Challenge. Two seasons ago, the Cougars opened up against the Illini and lost 96-69. With all the confidence SIUE has going into the season, Stineman said Illinois has the potential to wipe it away pretty quickly.

"You want to be confident with yourself," Stineman said. "It's hard to open at U of I and you know that's a game where you can lose some confidence. Looking at our schedule, we have a team that can be .500 or a couple games over if everything goes according to plan."

Last year, Illinois lost to Kansas in the third round of the NCAA tournament.

"Our players from Illinois, they understand Illinois," Forrester said. "They grew up watching them so that will be good to play in Assembly Hall and I think it is an honor. It is something that when you grow up you want to play for Illinois, so it is an exciting game."

SIUE travels to Illinois State to wrap up the U.S. portion of the Challenge before heading to Cancun to face Lipscomb and either Sacred Heart or Hampton, an NCAA tournament team from 2011.

The Cougars also play at SIU Carbondale Dec. 19 for the first time since 1987.

"That will be an exciting game and I am excited for that atmosphere," Stineman said. "We have never been rivals with them but we are rivals with them on paper and we will be ready to compete."

Last season, the Salukis finished 13-19 and were picked to finish ninth in the Missouri Valley Conference this year.

"That is a tough place to play. Although they have struggled the last few years, they will get it together," Forrester said. "They are more talented than last year so that's going to be a tough game for us."

At home, the Cougars play non-conference games against Cal State Fullerton, Ball State, Hannibal LaGrange of the NAIA and participate in the ESPN Bracketbuster series against an opponent to be determined at a later date. The OVC schedule though, is generating the most buzz despite the team's recent struggles against future conference foes.

"Going 0-9 last year was a way for us to get better and get prepared for this year when we are in the OVC," Forrester said. "We would have liked to have won those games, but can certainly use it as a stepping stone to get a chance to feel what it is like to play night in, night out in the

OVC."

It also gives the team a chance to find who its real rivals are.

"Murray [State] is always a fun game, [Southeast Missouri State] is becoming a rival with us and Eastern [Illinois] should kind of be a rival school," Yelovich said. "It's going to be really exciting to play rival schools, be in the conference and maybe make a name for ourselves."

For Shaffer, the name on the front of the other team's jersey does not matter.

"I'm excited about all the games on the schedule. I'm just ready to play," Shaffer said.

Teamwork

Stineman said the Cougars are a close group off the court, unselfish and ready to prove those who picked the team to finish last in the OVC wrong.

"Everyone, one to 15 on the roster, is close," Stineman said. "Everyone hangs out. There are no cliques and it actually feels like one united team with the same goals and the same mindset. That is nice."

Yelovich said there is a difference in the team morale.

"People want to work to get better and people want to win games," Yelovich said. "The intensity is better and those things have changed."

Forrester has noticed the difference in practice.

"They are doing a good job buying into what we are saying and are a very unselfish group," Forrester said. "They make the extra plays and help out their teammates and if they can con-



Guard Kevin Stineman returns for his senior season | Alestle File Photo

tinue to do those things hopefully we will be successful."

Games, of course, are very different from practice.

"I really like these guys. They are very coachable and have been working hard," Forrester said. "I'm excited to watch them play on Thursday and kind of see them on a Thursday when the lights are turned on as to what they have been doing in practice."

Nerves, after all, are to be expected.

"You just don't know until Thursday night and the first exhibition game," Stineman said. "I know I will be OK but I don't know about the other guys. If you are a new guy, a freshman or a transfer it will be a little shaky the first few games. We have good personalities on the team though so you never know."

Allan Lewis can be reached at alewis@alestlelive.com or 650-3524. Follow Allan @AllanJLewis.

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WOMEN'S PREVIEW | from pg. 9

much work they're willing to put into it on their own time," Levens said. "If you go in and you put in all those hours and you go in the gym and make all those shots on your own time, it's so much harder to accept failure and not winning or to accept your teammates not doing what they need to do."

Levens said a tougher preseason schedule has also helped the team prepare for the regular season.

"I thought our team's fitness was much better when they came back from what they did this summer than what it has been in the past," Levens said. "From that standpoint, we were further ahead in the preseason than we were last year."

Levens said the team is very deep this year, which will help them be more balanced throughout the season.

"We are two deep at every position. It's awesome to know that we can sub every position and not drop off," Levens said. "It's important for us to be balanced because there's going to be games when one person doesn't play well and other people need to step up and have opportunities. I feel like our first 10 players can all score in double figures if we

needed them to."

Levens said she would like to see the SIUE students come out to the games. She wants SIUE to be known for its crazy student section.

"I know all of the athletic teams want to be a point of pride on campus and I can tell you, playing at home, the more fans and more rowdiness and encouragement, the more hostile of an environment the student section can make our facility, the better it's going to help our teams perform," Levens said.

Meade said there is already a group of loyal and quality fans.

"They're definitely the sixth man. We're looking to gain more and more each time we play," Meade said.

Levens said she guarantees students would enjoy watching the team.

"They play hard and we will be in every game and we will compete. I think we'll be fun to watch," Levens said.

Meade said the team is going to go out and play their game because they have nothing to lose.

"It's going to be thrilling for sure," Meade said.

John Layton can be reached at jl原因@alestlelive.com or 650-3524. Follow John @hncamckl



Sophomore guard Jazmin Hill set the SIUE record for 3-pointers last season with 74 while averaging 12.9 points per game. | Photo by Michelle Beard/Alestle

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November 17
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Madison Room (Meridian Ballroom)

Event funded wholly or in part by Student Government through student activity fees.

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ROCKIN' INTO STYLE

'80s fashion throwback continues into winter

MANDY NEWSOME
Alestle Reporter

The chilly fall weather is blowing gusts of wind, autumn leaves, leggings, multi-colored scarves and jackets onto SIUE's campus.

fond of fetish, the ragged clothing, spikes, chains, the dominatrix style," Glover said. "It is interesting how it is being incorporated into fashion, like the Rad Hourani collection. Last spring Louis Vuitton was really into spikes. Black loafers, patent

"I really have been fond of fetish. The ragged clothing, spikes, chains, the dominatrix style. It is interesting how it is being incorporated into fashion..."

Julian Glover
Junior speech communications major



Fall fashion holds cozy knits, plaid details, tribal accents, long skirts and splashes of warm hues. Shown are a cognac leather jacket with rabbit fur collar by June (\$728), leather belt (\$78), blue blouse by Splendid (\$88), all at Nordstrom; reversible pencil skirt of denim and plaid (\$59) at Blue Bird Denim of St. Louis, bluebird denim.com; gold collar necklace (\$65) and gold Jessica Simpson earrings (\$28), both at Macy's. On the wall are sweater vests and cardigans (\$150-\$170) designed by Skif International from WestWind Alpaca and Fiber Mill. | Photo courtesy of Erik Lunsford/St. Louis Post Dispatch/MCT

The fall weather is receiving mixed feelings from SIUE students like sophomore accounting major Taneisha Earts of St. Louis.

"I hate the cold, but I love fall and winter fashion" Earts said. "I really like the cardigans, boots, scarves and leggings."

Earts said she has not seen many new trends this fall season. However, one fashion piece has caught her eye.

"I like doing my own thing, but everybody has been wearing camel shoes and I think they are cute. Especially the Jeffery Campbell ones," Earts said.

Camel shoes are closed shoes typically with heels and a small opening in the front.

Junior speech communication major Julian Glover of Bloomington said fetish clothing has caught his eye this fall.

"I really have been

leather and dark make-up is the look."

Glover said part of the reason the trend has come around is because of the explosion of vampires in pop culture.

"Twilight" has rebooted fascination with vampires, especially with the new 'Breaking Dawn' movie coming out," Glover said. "Lady Gaga has also been a front runner in the dominatrix fashion trends."

SIUE PREMIERE Models President Gloria Bland, a junior psychology and philosophy major from St. Louis said the trends she has noticed for this fall are decade signatures.

"The '80s are definitely coming back, but even the '40s and '50s style is making a comeback," Bland said. "Things in fashion always come back around."

Bland said musical artists have been influential in the new fall trends.

"Adele is bringing back the '40s and '50s style," Bland said. "It's a wholesome and classy look. The polar opposite is Nicki Minaj who is out there and bizarre. She really makes her own style."

Bland said there is one particular trend she has not liked this fall.

"One thing I don't like seeing is the mixing of opposite colors such as an orange dress with bright blue leggings," Bland said. "I do like mixing tribal prints with bright colors. I've seen a lot of that on 'Elle magazine.' I like it because it is out of the ordinary and anyone can pull it off."

Freshman history and German major Michael Marzian of Peru, Ill., said he likes fall fashion, but not some of this season's upcoming trends.

"I like bundling up and wearing nice outfits.

In the summer people are more casual but in the fall we dress nicer. It's my favorite season [for fashion]," Marzian said. "I don't like the '80s and [Lady] Gaga fashion trends. It's a little too out there."

Marzian, in a tight V-neck sweater, black military style jacket and skinny jeans, described his style as "classy with a flair."

"I love shopping at H&M and getting most of my main clothes there. But then I'll go to other stores like Hot Topic to find accessories," Marzian said. Kohl's floor associate Apiffany Hunter said the bad economy has affected where people shop.

"More people are shopping at department stores like Kohl's and Macy's with cheaper imitations and are less likely to go to the little, trendy boutiques," Hunter said.

Hunter said there have been some prominent new trends this season.

"Lots of leggings, off-the-shoulder tops, and lacy layers," Hunter said. "There have been more single-strap tops and loud

splashes of color to amp up an outfit."

Hunter said Kohl's sees a lot of college clientele. Many college customers tend to go for a particular look.

"[Kohl's clientele is] older college students mainly. Most of them go for tight leggings, loose fitting cotton tops, simple heels and layers of long jewelry," Hunter said.

Glover said one thing everybody should invest in to stay trendy this fall is a clutch.

"If you can splurge and buy one thing this fall, buy a clutch," Glover said. "Alexander McQueen did a nice job reinventing it, and everybody has them now."

Bland said she looks forward to this season's trends, and even more to Spring.

"I think this season is bringing back some cool trends and I'm really looking forward to Spring. It's my favorite fashion season because of the colors and exchanging short and long sleeves," Bland said.

Photo courtesy of Erik Lunsford/St. Louis Post Dispatch/MCT

Mandy Newsome can be reached at mnewsome@alestlelive.com or 650-3527. Follow Mandy @MandyDaDuchess.

Trick-or-treat in the street

Annual Halloween parade unites community

MANDY NEWSOME
Alestle Reporter

Smurfs, wizards, giant yellow spiders and cheerleaders performing to "Thriller" could be found parading through downtown Edwardsville on Halloween night.

Many residents took their children trick or treating Sunday

good to go out as a family and get out together. The parade is a good opportunity to do that."

Edwardsville resident Diane Gassiraro said this year's parade was successful.

"This is the most I've seen people at a Halloween parade," Gassiraro said. "Both of my kids are in the parade. [My son] is in it for the St. Mary's school



Student Government President Nolan Sharkey hands candy to a child dressed as Michael Jackson at the 2011 Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce Halloween parade. | Photo by Michelle Beard/Alestle

"I grew up in a place where we didn't have [community parades]. I think it's a testament that the community is strong..."

Dana Humke
SIUE Alumna

night, so they could go to the parade Halloween night.

For Edwardsville residents like Stacy Groch, the parade was a safe way to celebrate Halloween with her children.

"My kids brought me here," Groch said. "I have two. [My daughter] is Ariel and [my son] is Spongebob. I think that it is

band, [my daughter] is in it for 'Girls on the Run.' They love the parade."

As people crowded the streets to see the parade, local Edwardsville businesses like Erato took the opportunity to sell their products outside. Erato employees and SIUE graduates Dana Humke and

Kelli Laub could be found outside the restaurant selling tacos and apples as a part of the celebration.

"[The parade] is going great. It is so much fun," Humke said. "I grew up in a

place where we didn't have [community parades]. I think it is a testament that the community is strong."

The parade floats were sponsored by Edwardsville school organizations like

cheerleaders and marching bands, local Edwardsville businesses such as Auto Body Shop and the Mid American Bank and non-profit organizations such as Hope Animal Rescues and Trinity Churches United.

The Grand Champion float was for First Clover Leaf Bank. The Bank's Disney-themed float included the passengers, Mickey, Minnie and several children dressed up as iconic Disney characters. The luminous float and twinkling melody of "Amazing Grace" had crowd members "oo-ing" and "ah-ing" as the First Clover Leaf float passengers waved at the crowd.

According to Gassiraro, the parades in Edwardsville are the few times people in the community all come out together.

"You don't get the opportunity to mingle with everybody in the community, but usually people come out for the parades," Gassiraro said.

Mandy Newsome can be reached at mnewsome@alestlelive.com or 650-3531. Follow Mandy @mandydaduchess.

Student Legal Services

Free legal assistance for currently enrolled SIUE students

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It is **not** within the authority of the Student Legal Services Program attorney to provide assistance to students in the following matters:

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Striking out the competition

Cougar Lanes offers Halloween costume contest



Edwardsville High School student Connor Patt, 18, plays pool as fellow EHS student Victoria Martinussen, 17, waits for her turn at the Halloween costume contest at Cougar Lanes Monday night. | Photo by Andrew Rathnow/Alestle

LEXI CORTES
Alestle Opinion Editor

Students bowled into the night this Halloween at Cougar Lanes and a sock monkey, Marie Antoinette, a big baby, genie and a zombie all won prizes in the costume contest.

Cougar Lanes Manager Steve Siegel said they have hosted bowling specials in the past for

Halloween, but this is the first year they decided to add the costume contest.

"When I was younger I used to go to costume contests all the time [with] big, extravagant costumes, so I've always enjoyed Halloween," Siegel said. "I just thought we need to start doing that here."

The judges chose the winners based on creativity, giving the homemade sock monkey first prize

of an iPod Touch. Sophomore computer science major Grant Denby of Edwardsville took second prize winning a SIUE hoodie and Cougar Lanes hat for his Marie Antoinette costume.

"I just wanted to do something fun and out there just this one time," Denby said.

Freshman biology major Nick Celeslie of Grayslake won fourth place with his Genie costume based

on the Disney movie "Aladdin" behind a big baby who received third.

"I'm way into Halloween," Celeslie said. "It's nice to see everybody else dressed up."

Fifth place went to freshman pre-nursing major Lauryn McCoy of Volo as a zombie from the video game "Half-Life."

"I love Halloween," McCoy said. "It's my favorite holiday, it always has been and I just couldn't not dress up. I've had a couple people recognize the actual character, so it's been making me very happy."

McCoy said winning a free SIUE hoodie in the contest was exciting, but the best part of the night was just having a good time bowling with her friends.

Sophomore computer science major Brad Ross of Bloomington said he was bowling pretty well, even with the added challenge of his costume.

"I almost beat [my friend]," Ross said. "Dressed as a penguin, it would have been good to beat somebody. I don't really have hands."

Biology graduate student Nicole Griffis of Plainfield said she arrived early to make sure she would have a lane at the event.

"I like to bowl and it was an

excuse to wear my costume," Griffis said. "My highest [score] so far was 108. That's my all-time highest score right now, so that's pretty exciting."

Denby said bowling at Cougar Lanes was a fun alternative to the other events going on in the area for Halloween.

"The parade is always great," Denby said. "I've always gone there, but I decided to come here to hang out with friends."

Siegel and his staff worked on decorating Cougar Lanes for two days and offered prizes from an iPod touch to free games of bowling. Even though the university hosts many other Halloween events for students, Siegel said Cougar Lanes will continue to throw their party.

"We gotta give the kids something to do," Siegel said. "That's what's important, give them options."

Ross said this was his first year attending the event and bowling with his friends was as fun as he anticipated.

"It's something to do on Halloween," Ross said. "I can't really go trick-or-treating anymore."

Lexi Cortes can be reached at acortes@alestlelive.com or 650-3531. Follow Lexi @lexi_cortes.

Occupy the e Save the American Dream

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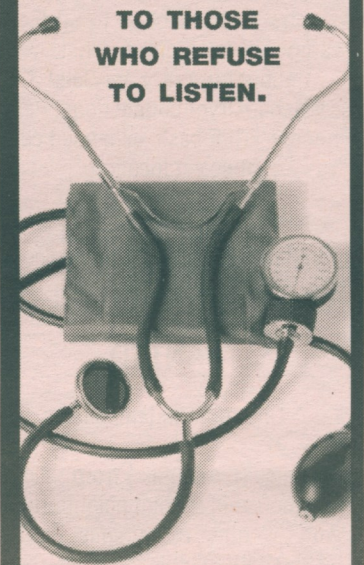
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